

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A patch panel comprising:

a frame having a top flange and a bottom flange, the frame including a plurality of faceplate openings;

a faceplate mountable to the frame within the top flange and the bottom flange, the faceplate having a plurality of mounting openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, each mounting opening having at least one modular jack retention latch protruding within the mounting opening; and

at least one modular jack mountable into a rear side of the faceplate,

wherein the at least one modular jack retention latch directly and releasably engages the at least one modular jack.

18. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the frame receives six faceplates.

19. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the top flange of the frame has a plurality of first apertures and the bottom flange of the frame has a plurality of

second apertures.

20. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 19, wherein at least one of the first apertures receives at least one first faceplate retention latch, and at least one of the second apertures receives at least one second faceplate retention latch.

21. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the frame has a center bar extending horizontally from a first end thereof to a second end thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the frame includes indicia centered above each modular jack position.

23. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the frame has a plurality of first mounting apertures at a first end thereof and a plurality of second mounting apertures at a second end thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the faceplate is releasably mounted to the frame.

25. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the faceplate is mounted into a rear side of the frame.

26. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the faceplate has

a top flange including at least one first faceplate retention latch and a bottom flange including at least one second faceplate retention latch.

27. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 26, wherein the top flange of the faceplate has at least one release arm.

28. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the faceplate has four mounting openings.

29. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein each mounting opening includes two modular jacks.

30. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein each mounting opening includes two modular jack retention latches.

31. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein each mounting opening includes a plurality of modular jack stops that define a lateral position of the modular jack.

32. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 31, wherein the plurality of modular jack stops are disposed along a bottom flange of the faceplate.

33. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein the faceplate has eight modular jack mounting positions.

34. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 33, wherein each modular jack mounting position includes a plurality of modular jack stops.

35. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein each modular jack is releasably mounted to the faceplate.

36. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein each modular jack is mounted to the faceplate in the same orientation.

37. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein each modular jack is slidably installed along a linear path into a mounted position in the faceplate.

38. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, wherein at least two modular jacks are vertically aligned within the patch panel.

39. (Previously Presented) The patch panel of claim 17, further comprising forty-eight modular jacks within one rack unit.

40-43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a patch panel comprising the steps of: providing a frame having a top flange and a bottom flange, the frame including a plurality of

faceplate openings;

mounting a faceplate within the top flange and the bottom flange, the faceplate having a plurality of mounting openings arranged in at least two rows and at least two columns, each mounting opening having at least one modular jack retention latch protruding within the mounting opening; and

mounting at least one modular jack into a rear side of the faceplate,

wherein the at least one modular jack retention latch directly and releasably engages the at least one modular jack.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the modular jack is slidingly installed along a linear path into a mounted position in the faceplate.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of mounting the patch panel to a network rack.

48. (Canceled).